

3.0 ASSESSMENT OF RISK

Wildland fire risk refers to the probability that an ignition will occur with the potential to effect people, property, or the environment. Fire risk is primarily determined by the history of ignitions in the area.

The majority of the project area is considered at a high risk for WUI fires. The Wapiti subdivision is listed in the Federal Register as a community at high risk from wildland fire (USFS et al 2001). BLM (2003) assigns high to moderate risk rankings for communities in the project area. The Greystone Anchor Point team has further identified risk ratings for communities in the project area (see **Table 3-1**). Communities are identified on **Figure 2-2**.

TABLE 3-1 FIRE RISK BY COMMUNITY

Community Names	Risk Rating
Dunn Creek	High
Jim Creek	High
West Jim Creek	High
Upper Wapiti Heights	High
Lower Wapiti Heights	High
Logan Mountain	High
Old Johansson Ranches	High
Rattlesnake Mountain	High
South Fork Drainage	High
Canyon Creek	High
Big Creek (Road 6BU)	High
Green Creek	High
Whit Creek	Moderate
Breteche Creek	Moderate
Upper Breteche Creek	Moderate
Post Creek	Moderate
Hidden Valley/Sheep Mountain	Moderate
Golden Walls	Moderate

BLM Risk Assessment and Mitigation Strategies (RAMS) data uses six factors to derive wildland-fire risk rankings: fuels hazard, fire protection capability, wildland-fire ignition risk, wildland fire history, resource and economic values, and catastrophic fire potential. Of these factors, the Greystone Anchor Point team considers wildland-fire ignition risk, wildland fire history, and catastrophic fire potential the most significant components of risk.

The Greystone Anchor Point team used the BLM RAMS ignition-risk factors to provide the ratings in **Table 3-1** for communities that were not assessed by RAMS. These include: WUI-population density, the presence of above ground power distribution lines, industrial operations, recreation, roads, commercial developments, and other factors such as woodcutting and government operations.

The project area has a significant fire history. From 1992 to 2003, the Absaroka Front fire management unit (FMU) had 41 fires affecting more than 17,000 acres (BLM 2004). Approximately 80 percent of the fires were ignited by lightning and 20 percent were human-caused. The PCFPD #2 reports responding to an estimated 35 to 50 wildland fire calls per year in this area.